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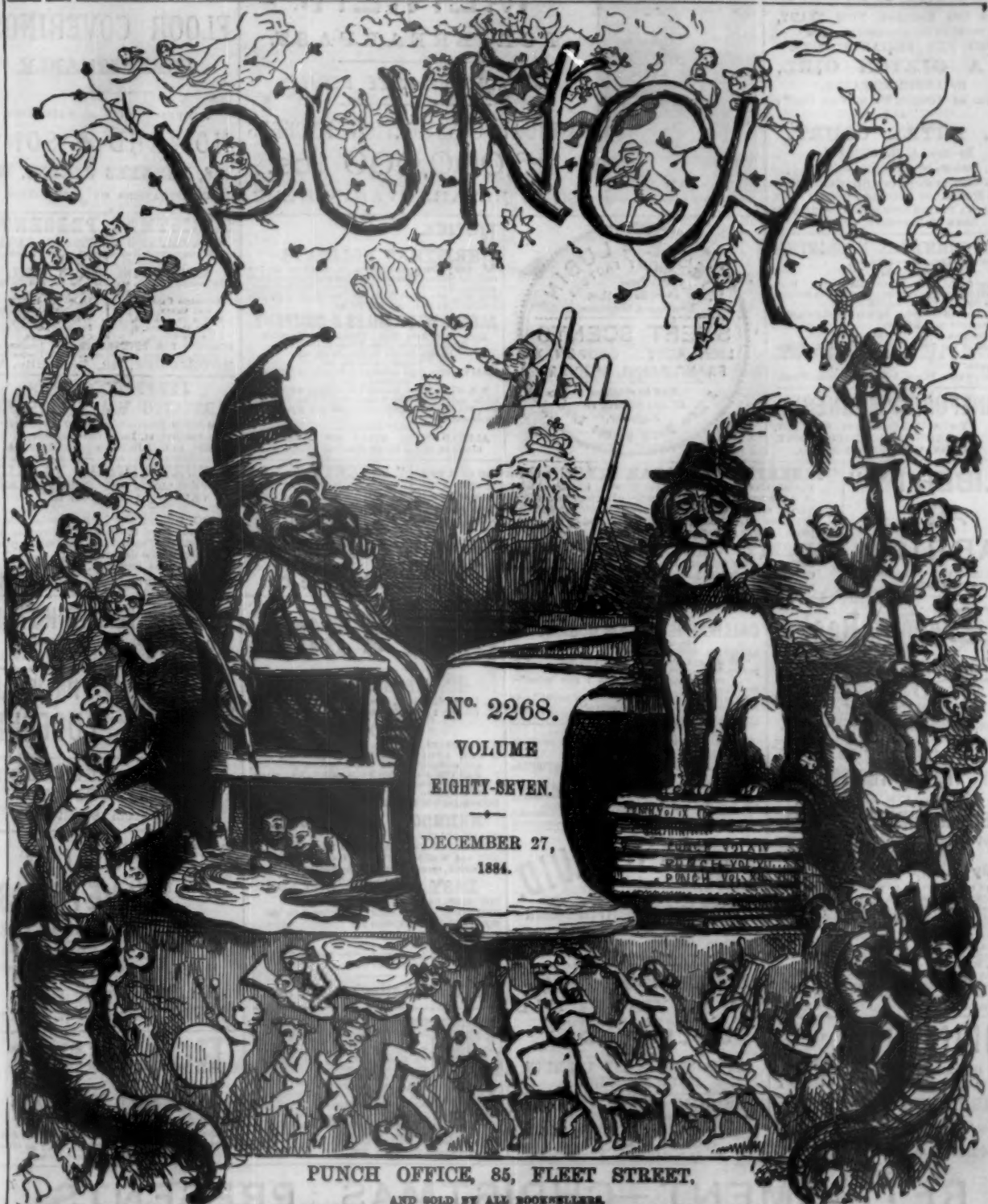
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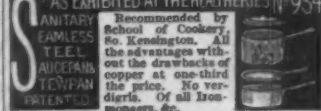
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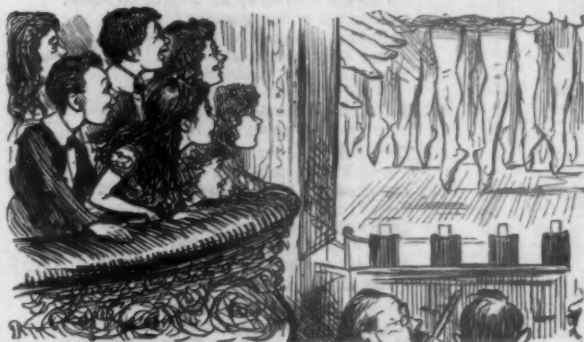
## RETIREMENT. CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

A few bargains in Standard 18-Carat Gold JEWELLERY and DIAMOND ORNAMENTS are still to be obtained from Mr. STREETER, 18, New Bond Street, before his retirement on the 31st inst.





CHRISTMAS WAITS AND CHRISTMAS CHEER.



CHRISTMAS BOX AND A LOT OF TIPS.

## "MERRY CHRISTMAS" IN CHARACTER.

CHRISTMAS to celebrate all hands what a reverend Father calls! His picture's in the print-shops, and his portrait on the walls. A stout and sturdy Elder he, robust of frame, appears To bear on his broad shoulders' weight far over fourscore years.

There's snow upon his hair, and beard, and gaberdine, and boots, And his face of much good living glows all over with the fruits. Inflamed by love, oh say not through excess, of festive cheer—Turkey, roast-beef, mince-pie, plum-pudding, wine, grog, punch, and beer.

His visage, likewise, bloated don't unpopularly style, Nor his looks a frantic stare, subdued with a fatuous kind of smile. This figure stands to signify a season and event; Impersonate Father Christmas, not Silenus represent:

Silenus, all his Grecian idealism forgot, A rampant, raving, violent, stupid, senile British sot. Mistake not Father Christmas, from the portraiture you see, For a crapulous old impostor, and a doting debauchee.

Ne'er look upon his likenesses from the cynic's point of view; Take a sight all round of the rosy, not gamboge and jaundiced hue. Good-natured, jocund, genial, sympathetic and sincere, We are bound to be when Christmas comes—and it's only once a year.

In a stirring account of the career of Admiral LYNCH, the new Minister of Chili, at Madrid, the *Times* said, "As his name indicates, he is of English extraction, and he has the greatest admiration for the English." But surely, "LYNCH" is Irish; and if additional evidence of his origin were wanting, isn't it to our hand in his extraordinary admiration for the English.

A YOUNG Doctor very earnest in his profession, but not particularly well read in poetry, subscribed to a Library, and the first book he selected was what, judging by its title, he thought, would be both professionally interesting and poetically instructive. It was, *The Patient Grisiel*, and other Poems.

CRY FOR THE PRICE-AT-ANY-PRICE ECONOMISTS.—"RICHARDS is himself again!"

## DINNER-PARTY SONGS.

THE happy experiment of "throwing in" Music along with the bread, cheese, and pickles, as generally included in an ordinary Restaurant Dinner, and first, we believe, commenced at the Holborn Restaurant, has naturally become so popular, that much tact and refinement have already been brought to bear upon the appropriateness of the various *morceaux* in the Programme to the dishes of the *menu* of the day to which they are intended to give piquancy and zest. What with "Ballad Luncheons," "Hot-potato-cantata Snacks," "Madrigal Suppers," and other musical methods of satisfying the appetite, there is plenty of room for invention, and, as an encouragement to Art in this practical and beautiful shape, the following sample *Bill of Fare* is placed at the disposal of any enterprising *Restaurateur* who, in accordance with the spirit of the times, is, so to speak, playing an excellent carving-knife and tuning-fork well together:—

## BILL OF FARE.

## POTAGES.

## Printanier.

"Beautiful Spring!"—RIVIERE.

## Palestine.

"The Crusaders"—PINSUTI.

## POISSONS.

## Fried Mullet.

"It was a Fryer of Orders Grey."—FARNELL.

## Stewed Eels.

"Ye Spotted Snakes."—MACFARREN.

## BLANCHAILLE.

"The Bait (Come live with me.)"—HATTON.

## ENTRÉES.

## Cœur de Veau Farci.

"Oh, say not that my Heart is cold."—SMART.

## Alouettes à Pain Grillé.

"Ye little Birds that sit and sing."—SMART.

## RÔT.

## Roast Mutton.

"Oh, who will o'er the Downs."—PEARSBALL.

## Haunch of Venison.

"What shall he have that killed the Deer?"—ARNE.

## SWEETS.

## Lemon Jelly.

"Shall I wasting in Despair."—HATTON.

## Apple Dumplings.

"Beware! Beware!"—HATTON.

## DESSERT ET FROMAGE.

## Fruits of the Season.

"O, Happy, Happy Pair!"—BLOW.

## With Toasted Cheese.

"Then you'll remember Me."—BALFE.

## COFFEE AND CIGARETTES.

Airs from "The Sultan of Mocha" (CELLIER) and "Il Cigaretto per esser"—(DONIZETTI).

It may be added for the benefit of those who feel inclined to try the thing, that, at the present season, the *Waits* could very judiciously be introduced between the courses. They should, however, be of a reasonable length, which would give the host an opportunity of effectively introducing PEARSBALL's immortal "See how Smoothly!" But enough has been said to show how, with a little tact and discretion, the Musical Meal may really become an amusing and instructive social institution.



THE MARINER BETWEEN THE TYNDALL AND CHAMBERLAIN LIGHTHOUSES.



### A SEVERE CRITIC.

*She (innocently).* "LANDSCAPE! NATURE, INDEED! WHY, IT'S NO MORE LIKE NATURE THAN I AM!"

### A CHANT FOR CHRISTMAS.

At Christmas, in the ancient days,  
Right festive was the season,  
The Lord of Misrule led the plays,  
With Abbots of Unreason.  
And grown-up folks, like girls and boys,  
Rejoiced in feast and folly,  
With Masks and Mummers made a noise,  
Their duty to be jolly.

But now the cynic's voice is heard  
To cry down Christmas greetings;  
He vows they're wholly too absurd,  
These pleasant Yuletide meetings.  
He holds the folk of bygone times  
Were only worth our scorning;  
And shudders at the cheerful chimes,  
That ring in Christmas morning.

We're too wise now, he'd have us know,  
To dream of being merry;  
He loathes the sight of mistletoe,  
And holly branch and berry.  
'Twas very well in olden days,  
To see the Yule Log splinter,  
But cynics sneer at ancient ways,  
And hurl contempt at Winter.

They bid us note the empty chair,  
And Time's unfeeling paces,  
The ghosts of those who once sat there,  
With unforgotten faces.  
They ever mourn the past, and weep  
For days as dark hereafter,  
And all the Christmas that they keep,  
Has ne'er a sound of laughter.

Away with all this cynic speech,  
A churlish heart revealing;  
The Christmas bells can truly teach,  
In town and country pealing.  
They usher in all harmless mirth,  
We hear from every steeple  
The sacred message, "Peace on Earth—  
Goodwill to Christian people!"

OVERPRESSURE OUT OF SCHOOL.—Being set upon.

### TOBY, M.P., REDISTRIBUTED.

MR. PUNCH has received at his office the subjoined official communication addressed to his young friend the Member for Barks.

December, 1884.

DEAR TOBY,

We are much concerned at dividing your Barkshire, as we fear that you will hardly wish to sit either for the Newbury, Abingdon, or Wokingham Divisions; but we still hope that possibly we may be able to suggest to the House to create specially for you a Barking Division of South Essex. Wishing you a Merry Christmas,  
We are, &c., &c.,

THE BOUNDARY COMMISSIONERS FOR  
ENGLAND AND WALES.

To TOBY, M.P. for Barkshire.

TOBY, M.P., having been consulted on the matter, says it is perfectly immaterial to him where he is placed, so that he is in a position to serve his country. He represents, in not exaggerated form, the average Member of Parliament, who is willing to lavish money and spend valuable time in attendance upon his Parliamentary duties, without hope of preferment or profit in any shape. Our young friend has already been invited to sit for Skye, and for the Isle of Dogs, but has yet arrived at no decision. It will naturally pain him to dis sever his connection with the constituency which first did honour to themselves and him by returning him to what, in the perorations of our speeches, we call the "British" House of Commons, as if there were a selection of them. Besides, all his colleagues in the representation of the county have announced their intention of not sitting again—of course without foreknowledge that, after the Redistribution Bill, they would not have an opportunity of doing so.

TOBY, M.P., leaves himself in the hands of the Boundary Commissioners, the Barkshire Electors, and an enlightened British Public. If he sits for any Division of Barkshire, he might express a preference for Wokingham, there being, even in his regenerate state,

something attractive in the last syllable. If, as the Commissioners suggest, a Barking Division be created in South Essex, he would timidly throw out a hint that this would be an excellent opportunity of testing the problem of the payment of Members. It may be right or it may be wrong. Till it has been tried it would be well to withhold too confident expression of opinion. The people of the Barking District would be proud to lead the van of civilisation in this direction, and would not resent an imposition of twopence in the pound on their rates in order to test the scheme. TOBY, M.P., for his part, says here again he entirely sets aside personal predilections, and would not stand in the way of the experiment being fairly tried, say for a period of five years certain, payment to be made quarterly in advance.

A CHRISTMAS QUALIFICATION.—There is an Article in the *Pall-Mall Gazette's* Christmas Number, entitled "After-dinner Conjuring." The writer has forgotten to impress on his readers that the success of the After-dinner Conjuring must depend considerably upon how the After-dinner Conjurer has dined. Should he have shown himself up to the Two-bottle Trick, his sleight-of-hand would be slightly amusing. Fancy a rather muzzy After-dinner Conjurer trying to do the trick of smashing up a watch in a mortar before reproducing it safe and sound inside a quartern loaf! On such an occasion the wobbling Wizard should do the trick with his own chronometer.

At Clare College, Cambridge, two silver cups were given away to Commencing Bachelors. One cup is given for "regularity of conduct during the year," but for what sort of regularity and conduct so significant a prize as a Silver Cup is given, the record does not inform us. A Commencing Bachelor may have been regularly in his cups every night, and then this reward would be most appropriate.

MRS. RAMSBOTHAM thinks that *Angra Pequena* is the name of some Cough Mixture that Prince BISMARCK has been taking.





## CHRISTMAS WAITS.

*Trio.* "OH, BLESS YOU, GENTLEMEN, WHOSE LOOKS  
ARE VERY FAR FROM FROWNING,  
PAY CARE, AND BUY THE LATEST BOOKS  
OF TENNYSON, SWINBURNE, BROWNING!"

## A WATER-COLOUR EXHIBITION.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Grand Junction Waterworks Company, the Report seems to have been so exceedingly *couleur de rose*, that in future the Company might call itself the Grand Junction Rose-Waterworks. The Chairman, Mr. W. T. HIGGINS, said "they had given an abundant supply of excellent water in the last half year." As a side-light upon this official optimism it may be noticed that "the inhabitants of Hayden's Mews are without a supply of water." So at least it was announced at a meeting of the Kensington Vestry held on the same day. Mr. DUDFIELD, Medical Officer of Health, said "there was a dispute as to the liability of paying the rate, the consequence being that the Grand Junction Company had cut off the supply." A true root-and-branch policy this. Mr. BOULCHER observed that owing to the action of Mr. DOBBS, the Company had fallen foul of small property. The spirit of Mr. Winkle seems strong among the Water Companies. What may follow—and serious consequences are conceivable—from Hayden's Mews being without that same "abundant supply of excellent water" upon which they plume themselves is, of course, "no business of the

G. J. W. Co." Dr. DANIELL said it was monstrous that the Company should have the power of cutting off the supply of water. A Daniell come to judgment, indeed. How dared he? This Daniell will find himself in a lion's den if he doesn't take care. "Water, water, everywhere, but not a drop to drink"—in Hayden's Mews—seems the result of the last half year's action of the Grand Junction Rose-Waterworks Co. Whether this result shows that "progressive and cheerful character" which Mr. HIGGINS declared marked the periodical statements of the working of the Company, perhaps the Public will decide.

## A Reply

*To the prolonged and persistent attacks of a certain influential Journal.*

*Lord Ripon loquitur:*

THEY tax me with a dozen crimes;  
But, bless you, I don't mind it.  
While Loyalty with RYON rhymes,  
Don't tell me I'm "before the times,"  
Ask rather, who's behind it!

## YULE-TIDE IN THE STRAND.

(A Christmas Story of the Royal Courts of Justice.)

It was the last day of term, and his Lordship was warming his knees before the fire prior to leaving the Royal Courts for the



Legal Difficulties.

Christmas Vacation. He had removed his wig, and his robes were loosened.

"I am glad that last case was settled by consent," he said, with a yawn, and then closed his eyes.

The fire continued to warm his Lordship's knees, and the closing of his eyes assisted his Lordship to doze. He did doze.

Of a sudden the Judge's Clerk entered the room and roused his master. He made a communication in a low earnest voice.

"What!" exclaimed his Lordship, hurriedly reassuming his wig, and arranging his robes. "A riot in my own Court! Oh, I must put a stop to this immediately!"

And without more ado he hurried back to the Bench. The Judge entered the Court amidst a Babel of sounds. "You are taking too much room, Sir!" "You have no right to cover my seat with your confounded books, Sir!" "What on earth are you doing, Sir!" were three, out of many other cries, that greeted his ears. The appearance of the Judge seemed to have no calming influence. "Is my Clerk there?" asked his Lordship, assuming a more constrained attitude, as he leaned over his desk. The Judge's Clerk admitted his presence, and then the Usher seemed to awake to the disrespect that the Bar appeared to be showing to the Bench, and shouted "Silence!"

The cry had the desired effect, and something like order was restored. "Gentlemen," said the Judge, bowing to the Bar who respectfully returned the salutation, "I can quite understand your annoyance. The Court is inconvenient in the highest degree. I notice that you Gentlemen of the Bar are crowded into a heap."

"That is so, my Lord," assentingly interrupted a well-known Q.C.; "I can assure your Lordship that had we a table instead of these costly carved (saving your Lordship's presence) idiotic desks, we should be a thousand times more comfortable."

"Certainly. I quite agree with you," replied his Lordship, "and I need scarcely tell you that I and my Brothers are no better off on the Bench. We can't hear, we can't see, and when we want to address an observation to our Registrars, have to assume attitudes which are at once grotesque, uncomfortable, and undignified."

"May it please your Lordship, the ventilation—"

"Does not please your Lordship, for it could not conceivably be worse," smartly replied the Judge, at which there was much laughter. Then his Lordship continued, "But surely something should be done. Can you, Gentlemen, suggest anything?"

The Bar having this direct appeal addressed to them, consulted among themselves for a few minutes. Then one of their number replied that they understood that a learned Judge, a few days since, had proposed an appeal to Mr. Punch as a powerful friend, who had the ability, and doubtless the will, to help them.

"Certainly," returned the Judge. "But how can we invoke Mr. Punch?"

Then Authorities were consulted, and then a pleasant perfume, suggestive of the mixture of brandy, rum, tea, and lemons, pervaded the apartment. Then the Comic Blackstone was solemnly produced, and certain rites performed. There was a sound as of a thousand "calls," and Mr. Punch took his place upon the Bench.

All present (in spite of the intense discomfort caused by the ceremony in the constrained space) knelt before him.

"Pray rise, my Lord; pray rise, Gentlemen," said Mr. Punch, courteously; "I know what you want,—or, rather, what you do not want. You do not want all this," and the Sage waved his hand towards the makeshift lamps, the wretched desks, the inconvenient boxes,—the Court generally. "No, you want a change. And you shall have it. You have my word, my Lord—my word, Gentlemen,—I will help you!"

At this there was a mighty shout of joy and exultation, and—and—

His Lordship woke!

The Judge, with his wig off and robes unloosened, had been dozing before the fire in his private room.

"Anything in that paper?" he asked, as he rubbed his eyes somewhat sadly.

"Yes, my Lord, very good news," replied his Lordship's Clerk, who had been turning over the leaves of an illustrated periodical of infinite merit. "Mr. Punch says that he will help you."

"Hooray! Then there was something in my dream!" shouted the learned Judge, excitedly.

And then his Lordship went joyfully home, and insisted upon stirring the plum-pudding, although it had already been made, and kissed everybody he met under the mistletoe, and danced "Sir Roger de Coverley" all day long, and spent Christmas as Christmas should be spent by everybody, yes, by everybody, one and all!

## THE DOME OF ST. PAUL'S.

SIR,—There's a great deal of unnecessary difficulty about the decoration of the Dome. "Domum, Domum, dulce Domum!" And it will be dulce enough if my advice is taken. "An Artist" wrote to the *Times* last week with a suggestion. He says, Try a dozen Artists, and if you don't like 'em, don't have 'em. Good: here's another. Try your Artists, Mr. Punch. Are there any better? No. Give each of these a moderate sum (I'll be stakeholder if you like\*), stand 'em their paint-pots and brushes, find 'em in gas and grub, ladders and liquor, and let 'em go at it with a will. Say £300 a-piece for a fortnight (I'll stand in for the suggestion†), and let 'em each take a bit of the space and try his hand. Give Dumb Crambo Junior a chance, too. I think he'd come out well in a sacred subject, seeing how reverentially he has treated that man singing a hymn in Your Almanack. Mr. DU MAURIER would be quite at home, and so would your Mr. KEENE, with a bit of landscape just chucked in and no extra charge. Warm colouring would be expected from your FURNISS. Mr. SAMBOURNE, I expect, would run MICHAEL ANGELO rather near, and Mr. TENNIEL—but I think he ought to be handicapped in the race, as he fresco'd in the House of Lords. But anyhow, this is my plan—on certain conditions.†

I am, Yours,

ROBIN PETER.

\* No thank you. Will do that ourselves.—Ed.

† No you won't.—Ed.

‡ We make no conditions. Mr. R. P.'s suggestion occurred to us long ago, and we have our own ideas on the subject from twenty-five up to fifty per cent., which leaves no margin for outsiders.—Ed.

POLITICS FOR PLAYGOERS.—So a new theatre is about to be erected at the rear of a house in Regent Street. It may be hoped that this addition to the resources of the Drama will still further extend the Reform of the Representation.



SIR HALFPENNY DINNER CHALLENGES SIR PENNY DINNER.



## PAPER-KNIFE POEMS.

By Our Special Book-Marker.

## I.

## MID CHRISTMAS LEAVES.

WHEN our grandfathers were babies, in long past good old times,  
They went to GRIFFITH FARRAN for their picture-books and rhymes:  
If now you talk to little folk, I think you'll find that they,  
Account these veteran Wizards most magical to-day!

*The Old Home*, doubtless, girls will love, 'tis writ by Mrs. BRAY;  
O'er stories from bright *Sunnyland*, they'll dream the time away:  
And they'll read *Aunt Mary's Bran-Pie*, and delight, I apprehend,  
In Mrs. HERBERT MARTIN'S *Guide, Philosopher and Friend*.  
*The Wild Horsemen of the Pampas*, will boys like better far  
With *The Boy Slave of Bokara*—they're both by DAVID KEE.

Miss E. C. PHILLIPS' *Grandfather* they'll never overlook,  
Nor SADLER'S clever *Cruiser*—a most interesting book.  
If you read about *The People of Asia* you can't fail,  
To estimate the value of Miss MILLER'S clever tale;  
STELLA AUSTIN writes *Two Stories of Two*, they're quite too-too—  
With the drawings by BASEVI—commend themselves to you.  
And BURNS'S *Tam O'Shanter* is a marvel in its way,  
With the pictures by GEORGE CRUIKSHANK, in colours done by CLAY!

## II.

If you are up Mount Parnassus a climber,  
If you would puzzle the craftiest rhymers,  
Unpack the parcel from famed HILDESHIMER,  
List to the story that he has to tell!  
*Little Miss Marigold*, pert and capricious,  
Miss DEALY'S pictures are bright and delectious;  
WEATHERLY'S verses are smart and judicious,  
Equally good is his *Song of the Bell*!

## III.

## THE LATEST AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

"Keep my memory green."—"Haunted Men:" also Stokes.

THIS Book's "the product of a memory good,"

Says Mr. EDMUND YATES. From such a store

We wonder, being in reflective mood,

'Stead of two vols. he has not writ a score.

Edmundus et "Ed. Mundi" 's kind all round

(Who'd unforgiving be, save SARAH BARNUM,

Who gave Miss Calumny a whipping sound?)

And always says, "Errare est humanum,"

"A me humani nihil alienum,"

(Latin to be pronounced as at Kilmainham).

The earlier part's in Copperfieldian vein,

He plays the very Dickens in each page;

The latest smacks of Golden-fieldian grain,

All reaped and garnered ere his middle age.

He thinks before he writes, and after too,

And having put a case, or told a tale,

He pauses what is doubtful to review,

And with a footnote trims th' unequal scale,

Admitting faults on both sides, but,—all venial;

Hands round at Christmas! Bumpers! let's be genial!

## IV.

SOLOMON Grundy's *Birthday Book*'s a charming publication,  
Devised by ROBERTSON AND BOYD, for all folk's delectation:  
And SECCOMBE'S *Comic Sketches* form the most delightful pages,  
For teaching English History to children of all ages.

JOHN LATEY, JUNIOR'S, *Love Clouds* is well worth commendation,  
A stirring tale of love, revenge and genuine sensation!

TUCK'S *Little Darlings' Alphabet*: those with discrimination,  
Will see it smooths, for little folks, the path of education.

JOHN WALKER'S cards on ivory command our admiration,  
Hand-painted, pearl and leather-grained—they're worth close observation:

While HARDING'S comicalities will cause much cachinnation,  
And hunting pictures, floral groups well merit an ovation!

The scented cards of RIMMEL, too, should have great circulation,  
With crackers, sachets, almanacks, deserve our approbation:  
And CREMEN, he is sure to please the rising generation,  
With countless games, and toys, and dolls, for young folk's recreation.

I. ISRAEL & Co.'s "Cosaques" are cause for gratulation,  
In silver, gold, and gelatine, and gorgeous decoration:  
They call them the "Excelsior"—no supererogation—  
Most popular they're sure to be for Christmas-tide flirtation!

## V.

TRUSTFUL Briton! Cave! Cave!!  
Read the startlingiest of tracts?  
Get *The Truth about the Navy*—  
Writ by "One who Knows the Facts!"

## VI.

## A TRULY GREAT WORK.

If to discover you've any anxiety,  
People's addresses of ev'ry variety;  
Stockbrokers, stevedores, artists sartorial,  
Novelties, newspapers—mild or censorial;  
Dépôts for dry-goods or haunts of Terpsichore,  
Doctors, or dealers in coffee and chicory,  
Theatre, tavern, hotel or refectory—  
All you will find in the *London Directory*!

Chorus.

Tol-de-rol, tol-de-rol, tol-de-rol, lectory,  
Bless KELLY & Co. and their *London Directory*.

## METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENTS. No. 1.



THE NEXT SENSATIONAL LITERARY ADVERTISEMENT; OR, THINGS OF BEAUTY IN OUR STREETS.

## MOST UNSOOTABLE.

MR. PUNCH, SIR,

I CAN'T help exclaimin' "O Chimney!" when I reads such a article in the *Times* as I did last Thursday as says that (I copy the lines 'verbatim' as the sayin' is), "Smoke and soot are merely the products of imperfect combustion, and if the combustion—" there's a word, it a'most sounds like swearin', don't it?"—"of our fuel could be rendered perfect, smoke would be colourless and soot would cease to exist." Now, Sir, I pertest against this as an educated *Ramoneur*, which you may not be aware is French for sweep, I pertest against this insitement to Science to rob a hardworkin' set of men of their livelihood. "Soots to the soots," as the divine WILLIAM says. What no more soot nowhere! Not in East or West? Not in the Inns of Court! Why, what 'ud become o' the Chancery Soots?

But 'tis ill jestin' with an aking heart,—and, seriously speaking, I do hope as this suggestashun will end in smoke. I'm a Liberal and a Free-Trader I am, and both I meen to be to the end of my natteral term of life; but there are limits where Free-trade itself wants protection, in order to egsist at all. What! "colourless smoke" and "no soot"! Why, Sir, if this is going to be, the Milendium will have begun, and of every one of us in our industry they will make (what I am always on Sunday) "A CLEAN SWEEP."

A SUGGESTION for Mr. JAMES MOLLOY, Composer of "*Oh, the Sound of the Wooden Shoon!*" which we present, with the Compliments of the Season, is, that he should write a Ballad for Cantabs who have gone in for honours, entitled, "*Oh, the Song of the Wooden Spoon!*"

LINES that we hope will not fall in the pleasantest places, Tram-car Lines. May Pall-Mall, and Piccadilly, and the Parks, be long preserved from such hard lines as these!



## AN EFFECT OF SHYNESS, LET US HOPE.

She. "NICE GIRLS THOSE MISS SMITHS! SO UNAFFECTED, AND SENSIBLE AND PRACTICAL, AND ALL THAT!"

He. "A—QUITE SO! JUST THE SORT OF GIRLS ONE CAN BE CIVIL TO WITHOUT RAISING FALSE HOPES, DON'TOHERKNOW!"

## JOHN BULL'S CHRISTMAS FAMILY PARTY.

AIR—"Sir Roger de Coverley."

Foot it fealty, merrily,  
To the old, old strain again  
Which the fiddler cheerily  
Plays with might and main again!  
Readily, steadily, trippingly  
Fall the feet swift pattering.  
What though frost bite nippingly?  
What though panes are clattering?  
All within goes jollily.  
Gladly, greenly clustering  
Sprays of yew and holly lie,  
And the young folks mustering  
From all far localities,  
Youthful feel and Yule-ishly;  
Pessimist banalities  
Here sound falsely, foolishly,  
Where in bosoms boundingly  
Hearts beat loyal, lovably,  
Whilst the feet beat soundingly  
To "Sir Roger de Coverley."  
Lumty tumpy tiddle-um!  
Oh, the old glad craze of it!  
Fiddler there might fiddle 'em  
Up and down for days of it.  
Siding, crossing, middling,  
Youth and age untiringly  
To that old loved fiddling  
Pant along perspiringly.  
BULL, though broadly, biggishly  
Looms his limbs broad latitude,  
Foot it Fezzicighly.  
Dame BRITANNIA's attitude,

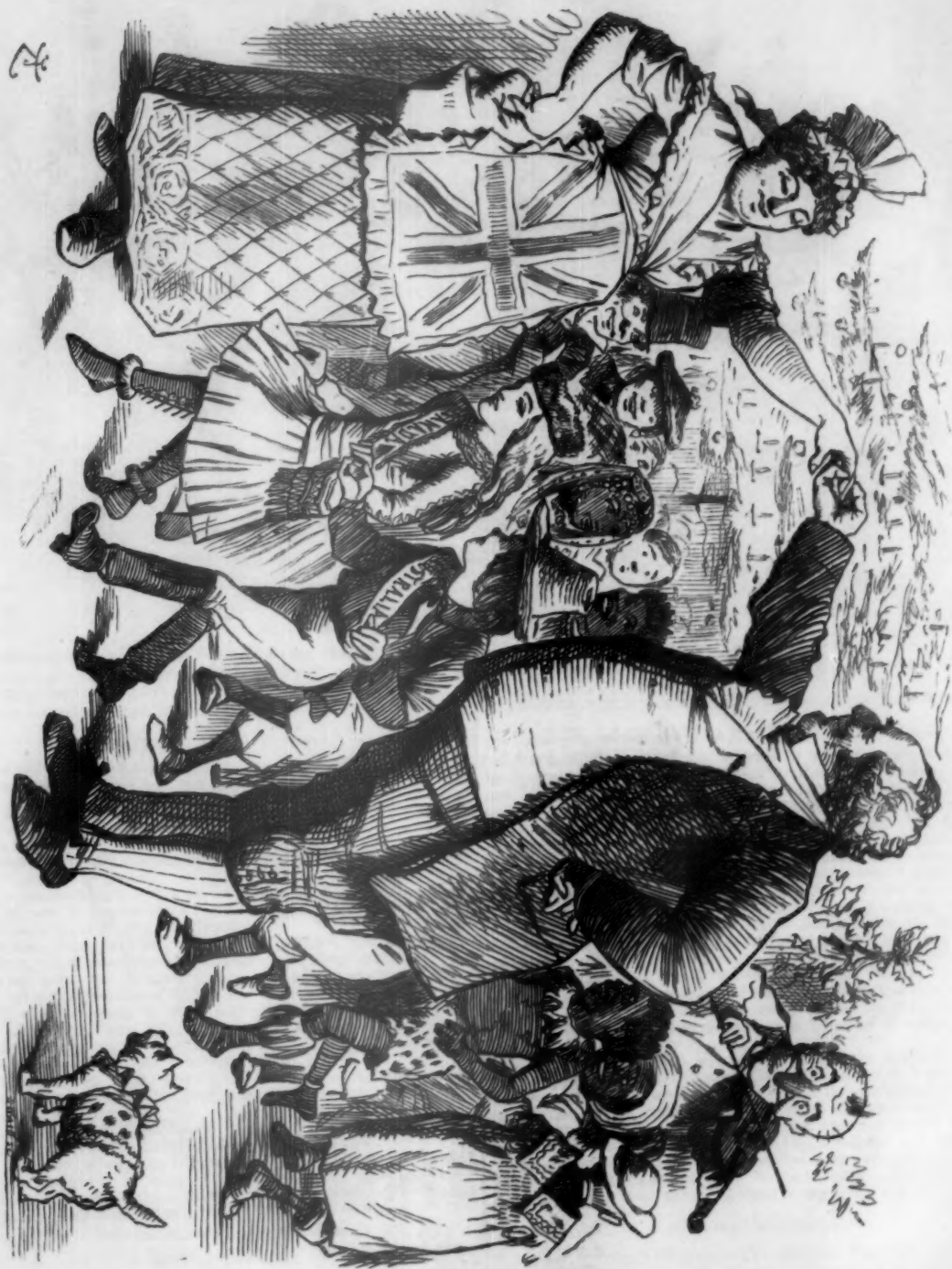
Though more free than classical,  
Speaks such brisk agility  
Her you'd still a lassie call.  
Sprigs of juvenility  
Fast behind her footing it,  
Won't outdance her easily;  
She has limbs well suiting it,  
Breath that comes not wheezily.  
All the brave young slips of her,  
Offshoots, every one, of her,  
Love the yet red lips of her,  
All the force and fun of her;  
Gather round her loyally.  
Proud she to possess 'em all,  
Greets them all right royally.  
Here's their health! God bless 'em  
all!  
Such a Yule-tide gathering,  
Such a Christmas sight about  
Stills seditious blathering,  
Croakers sends to right-about.  
British breeds confederate  
"Peace on Earth" may bring to us,  
Till bards inconsiderate  
Slaughter no more sing to us:  
Till "Goodwill" sound verily  
Cheerily, not clapttrappily.  
Fiddler, tune up merrily!  
Toe and heel it happily.  
Quicker he, quicker he, quicker he  
Plies his bow quite lovably.  
Need high-flown Terpsichore  
Scorn the homely "Coverley"?  
Tiddy-um, tiddy-um, tiddy-um!  
Oh, the old glad lilt of it!  
Music's love's true medium,  
Towns were once upbuilt of it.

Punch-Arion fiddles 'em  
With Pied Piper mastery,  
Ups 'em, downs 'em, middles 'em.  
Faster he, faster he, faster he  
Bows, till cheeks glow cherry-ly,  
Bows till brows weep clammyly,  
Fugling gladly, merrily,  
JOHN BULL's Happy Family!

ITEM FROM "THE SUSSEX DAILY NEWS."  
—Vide report of an Agricultural Dinner:—  
"Mr. C. ELLIS proposed 'The Judges.'" And here follows about fifty lines of Mr. C. ELLIS's speech, after which the conscientious reporter adds, "As all the Judges had left before this toast was reached, it was not responded to, but duly honoured by being drunk." The toast being "reached," "not responded to," "honoured," and "drunk," is quite inimitable. The Judges might just as well have remained to hear it, as there was not a word about them in it from beginning to end, except the formal proposal.

AIRY STATE OF THE LAW.—If the London Bridge Explosion had taken place on the Surrey side, would it not have been an affair for the Surrey police; if on the London side, for the Metropolitan? But if it had taken place in mid-air, says the *Times* reporter, "a further complication would arise." This points to a new force of Constabulary, the Balloon Police, belonging to no particular district, and always "up aloft" keeping watch, like the "sweet little cherub" in *DIBDIN's* ballad.





JOHN BULL'S CHRISTMAS FAMILY PARTY.

THEY WERE ALL THERE







## 'ARRY WITH THE 'ARRIERS.

Huntsman (waving back the Field). "FRESH HARE! GENTLEMEN! FRESH HARE!"

'Arry (taking his Guinea's-worth out of his 'Unter). "FRESH H'ARE! O' COURSE IT IS—JOLLY FRESH! THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M OUT FOR. COME HUP!"

## HOMEWARD BOUND.

"Over 5,000 Dogs have been put into Dr. RICHARDSON'S Lethal Chamber at the Battersea Dogs' Home since last May."—*Daily Paper*.

Poor old Fido has slunk under the sofa! I think she knows that the man with the carbonic oxide vapour has come with his "Christmas Box" for her.

We really must get all our meat in future from the "Painless Butcher" round the corner.

What a grand invention this is, by which the New Zealand Sheep are carried over to England in a Lethal ship, and remain fast asleep till they wake up as Mutton at Wapping!

I am afraid, dear, that this piece of Beef, which you have given me to carve, must have been put to sleep a very long time ago.

As we are going out of town for the whole Summer, we are going to send our cat to Battersea, where they look after them, you know, and if it *should* happen to stray into Dr. RICHARDSON'S Carbonic Oxide "Generator," why, of course, we should have to put up with it.

Is there any apparatus by which a portion of the narcotic vapour could be introduced into our neighbour's fowl-house?

We are asking Dr. RICHARDSON to be kind enough to invent a sort of Lethal Chamber and Cat Trap combined, for use in our back garden about 1 A.M.

I wish my dear Mother-in-law would pay a visit to Battersea. She might get put in the Lethal Chamber by mistake!

And, seriously, when man is becoming so splendidly and properly humane to the lower creation, is it not time that slow starvation should cease to be one of the methods of "extinguishing life" among our surplus human population?

## A Brittle Servant.

THE following advertisement is from the *Daily News* :—

**E**ARTHWARE PORTER.—Strong Youth, of good character, WANTED, &c.

Doubtless an Earthenware Porter would look well enough. But he would not stand much knocking about. "Strong youth" we see is required. Quite so! It would be a great pity if he got broken.

## THE LAST NEW AMERICAN STAGGERER!

I HAS jest bin a readin a account of wot is a goin to be dun at the hopenin of the New Orleans Hexhibishun nex Toosday, or rather last Toosday as it is now, tho' it wasn't so when I read it. It seams as the President, as they calls their king there, is so werry busy a makin prepperashuns to receive his suksesser, that he can't manidge to run jest about 1300 miles or so, down to Orleans, where they grows such nice plums, to hopen it himself, so he's a goin to a large Wite House as they as at Washington, where it seams they've got quite a lovely Cabbinet, and a diplomattic Corps, and other curiossitys, and then, at 12 a'clock pursisely, he's a going to squeeze a tillygraphic key, and that will send a flashing fire all the way to Orleans, and that will open the Hexebishun and start all the myshcenery!! Well, in coorse we're all hexpected to bleeve it all, coz it's in the *Times*, but I chewsas to use my rites as a trow born Englishman, and to bleeve jest as much as I likes, and that's preshus little. I don't purtend to be a werry skientiffic man, but I ain't quite sitch a fool as that cums too, so I leaves it with a smile of pityin contemp.

But the idear as strikes me werry forceably is, couldn't our ard-workin LORD MARE, or our poplar PRINCE, manidge to hopen all their Hexibishuns, and Skools, and Ships and things, with jest sitch a Key as they use in Amererrykey. Wat a lot of time it woud save, and wot a lot of preshus and most horiginal speeches would be saved, too, for future use! The warios Copperashuns and other large bodys could have their indeespenserbil bankwots jest the same; so neither them nor us woudn't lose nothink by the new derangement. I commends my most horiginal idear to my LORD and my PRINCE.

ROBERT.

**A NEW GUINEA'S WORTH.**—The German Flag has been hoisted in the Western Pacific, and is now performing that contradictory feat peculiar to flags of all countries—namely, that while it remains in one place, it is at the same time flying from it. BISMARCK has given JOHN BULL change for a New Guinea in German silver. Our property there is now represented by about half a sovereign. However, JOHN BULL must now face it with Tootsian philosophy, and say, "Oh, it's of no consequence, I assure you."



### MR. PUNCH'S SURPRISE CRACKERS FOR CHRISTMAS.

#### THE BOARD OF FAITH—NOT WORKS.

THAT Upper Chamber of Bumbledom—known at one time as the Board of Works, but more recently as the Board of Faith, is applying for more powers to do something that probably wants doing, but which the Board has shown no ability or desire to do. The cross thoroughfares of London—the bloated City of Four Millions of people, and Sixty-two promised Members of Parliament—are in the same state now as they were in the days of JACK SHEPPARD and MOLL FLANDERS. The money that has been collected and spent has been spent upon streets and embankments running East and West, while the roads from South to North, with the single exception of the purchase of Waterloo Bridge, have been practically left untouched. Five or six years ago the Board came into possession of powers to drive new streets from Charing Cross to Oxford Street in one direction, and from Piccadilly Circus to Tottenham Court Road in another, but they have never driven them. All their energy seems to have been exhausted in buying, letting, and nursing the London Pavilion Music-Hall. Even now the discussions of the Board seem to be largely devoted to the proposed re-construction of this highly important London Institution, which, with the Trocadero Music-Hall opposite, is to guard the portals of the New Street, if the New Street is ever to be more than the dream of an Official Architect. The jaw-bone of a certain animal has done wonders before now, but not merely as a lever for the raising of conversation. It was used in a different way in the grip of a SAMSON.

#### "Q" IN A CORNER.

OUR Irrepressible Interviewer went at him and found him in. He was all among the books. He said his name was QUARITCH. How he got it he hasn't an idea, except that his family had it before him, and it might have been given to his greatest great-grandfather, because he had a "queer-itch" for acquiring knowledge. "You look very well," says I. "Just come in from a sale," says he. "Oh!" says I, "where did you sail to?" I thought he appeared annoyed at this, so I asked him, "How are you?" and he replied that he was very tired as he had been a-Syston at a great book sale. I didn't catch the pun at first, which irritated him considerably, and he said he felt inclined to throw an old copy of Shakespeare (worth

£3,200) at my head. I dared him to do it. He threw something. A very heavy work. I don't know what it was. Mr. Q. observed, "It was beautifully bound—to hit me." Then he smiled. After this we got on better. He said that the *Arabian Nights* were written by the Real Simon Pure. I didn't understand this, and pressed him for an explanation. He refused. I then asked him where the lines came from, commencing—

"I am a blessed Elsevir."

And he immediately said that "any one who talked to him about Elsevirs and Aldines was an ass." Mr. QUARITCH's style reminded me of that of the late Dr. SAMUEL JOHNSON, whose centenary we have just passed over silently. A bell rang. "That's my Al-dine edition," shouted Mr. Q., and vanished through a secret door. Then the gas was turned out. Then I was turned out.

**DYNAMITERS AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL.**—The Police accompanied by Excise officers visited Messrs. GERMAN REED's Entertainment the other evening, in consequence of their attention having been attracted by *A Peculiar Case* which had been placed on the stage a few nights ago. On inspection the Case was found to contain Mr. ALFRED REED and Company, and on being produced it occasioned several explosions of laughter. It was otherwise harmless. Mr. REED entered into his own recognisances (a very entertaining feat) to appear every night till further notice, and to hold himself ready to come before the curtain for judgment when called upon. The Police said that they were only partially satisfied, as they had not yet seen Mr. CORNEY GRAIN, but on its being explained to them that the gentleman had entirely recovered and would be there on Boxing Day, they expressed their determination of returning on that occasion.

**"OFFERED . . . NOT TAKEN!"**—BRAVO, BEDFORD! not Duke, but Deputy. Mr. Punch adds his vote to the majority of twenty-two by which your resolution was carried, and trusts that the reward of £5,000 offered by the Municipality for the discovery of the miscreants who attempted the destruction of London Bridge may have the desired effect. Nasty one this for the HOME SECRETARY. As Government itself appeared a little shy of coming forward with a reward, it was just as well that it should be done by Deputy.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—In no case can Contributions, whether by a Stamped and Directed Envelope or Cover.

MS., Printed Matter, or Drawings, be returned, unless accompanied Copies of MS. should be kept by the Senders.



# INDEX.



ADVICE Gratis, 145  
 Aesthetic Buttons (An), 23  
 After the Play, 298  
 All-at-Sea Songs, 288  
 All for the Best, 292  
 All Moonshine, 106  
 All the Difference, 18  
 Alterations for the Underground Railway, 269  
 Another View of it, 285  
 Apotheosis of Dodson, 207  
 Apotheosis of Mud-Salad Market (The), 58  
 Appeal for the City (An), 277  
 A Proposal, 234  
 Archaeological and Numismatical, 58  
 'Arry at a Political Picnic, 180  
 Artist on the Brain, 129  
 At a Soirée, 29  
 Au Grand Sérénade, 93  
 Au Revoyr, Australia, 142  
 Autumn Manoeuvres at Home, 157  
 Bad for the Bullock, 164  
 Baker Street Rediviva, 26  
 Ballad of Billiards (A), 269  
 Ballad of the Bacillus, 204  
 Barlowana, 270  
 Barlowans on Bicycles, 43  
 Barrel Organ (The), 24  
 Batter Prospect (A), 118  
 Beggars' Opera House (A), 6  
 "Begone, dull Care!" 243  
 Better Part of Valour (The), 123  
 Between the Two, 299  
 "Bill" the Giant-Killer, 246  
 Bit after Bosay (A), 273  
 Blind Butlers, 53  
 Board of Faith—not Works, 810  
 Box and Cox, 258  
 "Bright Nights," 241  
 Brighton in November, 221  
 Brilliant Hatch (A), 216  
 Britons and Slaves, 167  
 Brown and Jones at the Crystal Palace, 113  
 Bull to his Party Baiters, 120  
 Bun and "Buster," 5  
 By all Means, 242  
 By Degrees, 118  
 Call to the Bar (A), 180  
 "Can't get Away!" 90  
 Capital Quarters, 208  
 Capstan Bar (The), 118  
 Cecil's Stockings, 14  
 Chant for Champagne (A), 29  
 Chant for Christmas (A), 202  
 Classics at Cardiff, 143  
 Comic Chemists, 254  
 Coming Content (The), 160  
 Coming "Force" (The), 278  
 Comma Bacillus (The), 254  
 Commencement of the Hunting Season, 246  
 Confound their Navy Tricks, 140  
 Copyright and Common Sense, 142  
 Counting their Chickens, 252  
 Count Smorltork's Notes, 198  
 Crickety and Political, 23  
 Curious, 269  
 DANGERS of Dancing, 285  
 Day in the Country (A), 126  
 "Dear Me!" 241  
 Debt and Defence, 220  
 "De Goostibus non est Disputandum," 123  
 Diary of a "Chucker-Out," 220  
 Dinner-Party Songs, 201  
 Dioscuri in Egypt (The), 114  
 Dished Up, 264

Doggerel on the Dirty One, 25  
 Douce of St. Paul's (The), 204  
 "Dook" and his Dooty (The), 236  
 Drawing the Lane, 174  
 "Dr. Watts" improved, 184  
 Dual Un-Control (The), 270  
 Duke of Mudford to Mr. Punch (The), 26  
 Dunraven, 244  
 Eastern Offering (An), 291  
 Education Extraordinary, 144  
 "En Attendant," 273  
 English—Broken, not Bent! 60  
 En Sweet, 147  
 Epithalamic Triolets, 12  
 Equestrian Statues for Blackfriars Bridge, 217  
 Essence of Midlothianism, 109  
 Essence of Parliament, 10, 23, 25, &c.  
 "Evicted!" 282  
 FAIR Cricketers, 166  
 Farewell to the Season, 61  
 Father Thames's Appeal, 73  
 Feast of St. Partridge (The), 106  
 "Female School of Art" (The), 27  
 Few Home-Truths (A), 249  
 Fifty Years Since, 65, 62  
 Figuratively Speaking, 217  
 Fine Art Society's Gallery, 2  
 Flame once Kendal'd (The), 198  
 "Follow my Leader!" 42  
 For the Children's Champion, 277  
 From Doncaster, 128  
 From the Northern District, 84  
 Future of the British Tar (The), 25  
 Future of the House of Lords (The), 267  
 GAILETT—more or less, 292  
 Game Prospects, 29  
 Gay Science (The), 180  
 Gay Vegetarians (The), 84  
 Good News for Common Councilmen, 253  
 "Good Night!" 294  
 Good Old Stook (The), 292  
 "HAMLET" in the Gallery, 224  
 Happy Holiday (A), 87  
 Hard Work, 68  
 Hardy Annuals, 273  
 Hawful Hignorance of the Upper Classes, 269  
 Henley in July, 1  
 Henry Fawcett, 228  
 Henry George Boon, 110  
 "High Spirits," 221  
 Hint in Time (A), 20  
 Historic Meeting (An), 256  
 Historic Novelty, 186  
 Home and the Stage (The), 177  
 Homes of England (The), 99  
 Homeward Bound, 209  
 Homes on the House of Lords, 65  
 Horse and how to Ride him (The), 167, 181  
 House Boastful (The), 14  
 How's This? 207  
 How the Navy was Reconstructed, 245  
 How the Rough Draft was Published, 214  
 Humanity and Hoax, 125  
 Humorous and Costumers, 223  
 Hunting Season (The), 245  
 "I AM so Versatile!" 173  
 I. H. E. Examination Paper (The), 240  
 Impeded M. P.'s, 20  
 Imperial Cook, 225  
 Imperial Confederated Parliamentary Notices, 258  
 In Rotten Row, 65  
 Intellectual Atmosphere (An), 204  
 Isaac, 173  
 JOHN Bull's Christmas Family Party, 206

Joseph Warner Henley, 291  
 Justice in a New Light, 296  
 KEATS at Cannon Street, 64  
 Key to the Dons (A), 241  
 "K. G."—"Q. E. D." 246  
 LADY and the Frig (The), 41  
 Land and Water, 173  
 Last New American Staggerer (The), 209  
 Latest Mystery of Isis (The), 255  
 Law in Lavender, 229  
 Lawn Tennis Classics, 41  
 Lay at Lords (A), 58  
 Lays of a Lazy Minstrel, 94  
 Leave and Licence Day, 193  
 Lessons from the Young Idea, 206  
 Letters in the Hecce, 156, 164, 169, &c.  
 Letters to Some People, 2, 23, 46, &c.  
 Little Mud-Salad Market, 74  
 Living up to the Empire, 268  
 Loves and Learning, 154  
 London in November, 278  
 Look at Home, 162  
 "Look here upon this Picture, and on This!" 121  
 Lord Mare among Thieves (The), 230  
 Lord Mayor at Berlin (The), 143  
 Lords and the Franchise Bill (The), 94  
 Lords of Creation, 14  
 Losing Leader (The), 47  
 Love on a Yacht, 145  
 Loving Cup (The), 255  
 Lytton v. Davy, 227  
 MACINTOSH in Midlothian, 161  
 Madrigal of Mud-Salad (A), 5  
 Manchester's Plucky Auditor, 193, 228  
 "Master of the Sentences" (A), 146  
 "Medical Hero" (A), 266, 298  
 Memories of the Great Match, 86  
 Michaelmas-Day at Guildhall, 168  
 "Milton's Grandmother," 227  
 Mismomer, 243  
 Model "Maid of All Work" (The), 134  
 Modern Men of Gotham I (The), 221  
 Modern Pierian Spring (The), 145  
 Modern Valuation (A), 17  
 More-and-Morely Series (The), 223  
 More Kendal-light Effects on the Stage, 185  
 "More or Less Assistance" Tariff (The), 221  
 More Republicanism, 148  
 Most Unscotable, 205  
 Mr. Greenhorn's Experiences, 22, 218, 276  
 Muddle about Little Mud-Salad Market (A), 97  
 Muse of Mud-Salad Market (The), 65  
 Musical Maid Servants, 120  
 "Music for the People," 193  
 NARY Blaine, 223  
 Natural History Note, 29  
 N. B.—Important Advertisement, 179  
 "Nack or Nothing," 164  
 Neo-Socialistic Nursery Rhyme, 262  
 New City Edition, 158  
 New Danger (A), 26  
 New Departure for Farmers (A), 173  
 New English "Decoration" (A), 191  
 New French Verb (A), 225  
 New Municipality of London, 4  
 New Play at the Law Courts, 254  
 New Raps of the Lock (The), 169  
 New Reading (A), 227  
 New Scheme (A), 202  
 New Time-Table (A), 297  
 "Nibbs" at the Lyceum, 218  
 Nice Little Wife (A), 101  
 "Nobleless Oblige!" 20  
 Noises of the Night (The), 24

No Pilgrim, 29  
 (North) Brook (The), 98  
 Not all G. A. S., 110  
 Notes from "Nibbs," 281  
 Notes of Songs, 266  
 Not a Luminous Globe, 290  
 Not "in a Concensation Accordingly," 292  
 Not in the Second Quarto. A.D. 1699, 214  
 Nouveau Service Rapide, 20  
 Nursery Rhyme, 209  
 Old Friends with New Faces (The), 68  
 Old Lion Aroused (The), 66  
 On All Fours Claviera, 65  
 Operatic Notes, 68  
 Ortonomy, 168  
 Other "Grand Old Man" (The), 206  
 Our Advertisers, 297  
 Our Danger-Signals, 54  
 Our Hard-working Lord Mayor at Berlin, 148  
 Our Inane-Itary Guide to the Health Exhibition, 15, 18, 24, &c.  
 Overpassing the Oracle, 262  
 Over the Footlights, 165  
 PAREN-KNIFE Poems, 274, 278, 280, &c.  
 Parallel to Poland (A), 128  
 Paving the Pipers, 156  
 Peep at Paradise (A), 212  
 Perfect Paradise (A), 61  
 Perfect Treasure (A), 228  
 Per Mare et per Terras, 243  
 Pets and Pheasants, 154  
 Phosphorus and Water, 74  
 Plague and Pudding, 180  
 Plagues of Flies (The), 66  
 Pies for the Past (A), 75  
 Pies for the Silent System (A), 220  
 Political Doctors, 128  
 Political Foreign Policy, 68  
 Political Pheasants, 216  
 Political Tam O'Shanter (The), 61  
 Politics for the People, 2  
 Pope Misapplied, 130  
 Pot and Kettle, 226  
 Pots and Kettles to Mend, 154  
 Practical Thought-Reading, 144  
 Preserving the Peace, 183  
 Primosity Fun (A), 27  
 Professor Buskin's Novel History of England, 227  
 "Progress of Man" (The), 62  
 Prorogation (The), 96  
 Protocel (A), 54  
 Psychical Research for the Summer, 87  
 Psychography on the Scales, 266  
 Punch's Occasional Fables, 118, 120  
 Pursuits of the Premier (The), 118  
 "Put that in your Pipe," 226  
 Q. E. D., 115  
 "Q" in a Corner, 219  
 Question, 1  
 Question for an Answer (A), 167  
 Questions for the Questioners, 200  
 "Quickest Thing on Record" (The), 264  
 Quiet Neighbourhoods, 22  
 Quips of the Hour, 245  
 Quite the Latest Intelligence, 107  
 RAIL Away! 101  
 Raising the "Ferry Cross," 168  
 Rather Odd Hooks and Corners, 122  
 Real Hogg in Armour (A), 260  
 "Real Jam" for a Premier's Scotch Breakfast, 155  
 Real He Galantuomo (A), 198  
 Real State of the Empire (The), 287  
 Redistribution in Years to Come, 225  
 Refusing to Play any More, 266

Remarkable Theatrical Feat, 260  
 Renaming a Street, 47  
 Return of the Wanderer (The), 170  
 Rhyme by a Radical, 95  
 Rhyme for Rogers, 150  
 Robert at a Cabinet Council, 87  
 Robert at Hyde Park, 49  
 Robert in Hyde Park again, 69  
 Robert on Genius, 25  
 Robert on Lord Mac's Day, 242  
 Robert on the Elipope, 139  
 Robert on the River, 129, 146  
 Robert with the Others, 213  
 Rod and Calne, 197  
 Romance of the Line (The), 204  
 Rose without Thorns (A), 123  
 Ruling the Waves, 162  
 Rules of Health (The), 28  
 Rum Revolution (A), 190  
 Rural Simplicity, 57  
 SAILOR'S JOURNAL (A), 202  
 Salisbury Tales (The), 73  
 "Salvation" and Safety, 299  
 Sandwiches and their Charms, 221  
 Scholars and Players, 171  
 School-Board Screw (The), 21  
 Reasonable Suggestion, 96  
 Shakespeare on the Situation, 167  
 Signs of the Times, 60  
 Single-Seat Member (The), 216  
 "Sins of the City," 124  
 Skoggism in Skye, 252  
 Some more Buskin Lectures, 250  
 Sorrows of Sanitation (The), 118  
 Song of Seventy-One (The), 69  
 Song of Suit and Service (A), 81  
 "Song of the Dirt" (The), 55  
 So Very Young! 216  
 Spinsters Suffrage, 265  
 Stage by Kendal-Light (The), 165  
 Stage Further (A), 49  
 Stay, prithee. Stay! 235  
 Stocks and Shares, 292  
 St. Pancras Recipe for Cholera (The), 145  
 Strange Fancy (A), 87  
 Strange Woeing (A), 194  
 Striking out a New Line, 78  
 Stump and Steam, 186  
 Suggestive Correspondence, 278  
 Summer in Winter, 269  
 Sweet Day of Rest! 142  
 Sweet Revenge, 86  
 TACKLING the Tax Collector, 17  
 Taffy's Ellixir, 24  
 Teaching our Grand Mother, 155  
 Tail It Not in Aston, 214  
 "Tempora Mutantur," 298  
 Tonnies & Croquet, 142  
 Terminus Triolets, 97  
 Trade Bargain (A), 6  
 Tip from Tea-Land (A), 216  
 "Thames Communications," 80  
 Theatrical Meme, 50  
 Theatrical Notes, 149  
 Their Little Games, 206  
 Theory and Practice, 265  
 "There's no Place like Home!" 120  
 They Stand O'-rooted, 264  
 Thomas Tall-lyle's Roistering Life in Town, 269  
 Thoughts upon Thought-Reading, 95  
 Three Champions (The), 169  
 Three Jovial Huntsmen (The), 192  
 Three to One! 50  
 To a Painted Lady, 2  
 Toby, M.P., Redistributed, 202  
 Tolders after Truth (The), 191  
 To the Scientific Dress-Cutting Association, 86  
 To "The Surrey Crowd," 69  
 Touching Appeal, 265  
 Town (The), 9, 16, 38, &c.  
 Trial by Judge, 275  
 Trill for the Twelfth (A), 23  
 Tripper (The), 150  
 Triumphant Billingsgate! 180  
 True Modesty, 130  
 "Truth about the Militia" (The), 177  
 Truth about Truth (The), 276  
 "Tussand! 'tis pity 'tis so!" 70  
 ULTRA Radical Recipe (An), 160  
 Uncertain September, 123  
 Unconscious Guy Fawkes (The), 222  
 Unlimited Lewes, 204  
 "Up in a Balloon, Boys!" 170  
 VAIN! 190  
 Valuable Suggestion (A), 1  
 Vegetarian Vagaries, 192  
 Verses, 225  
 Very Latest Police Intelligence (The), 189  
 Very like a Whale—Story, 86  
 Very Much Abroad, 100, 118, 126, &c.  
 Very Much-at-Home Parliament (The), 181  
 Vestry's Interests, 185  
 Voluntary Contributions Thankfully Received, 144  
 Voluptuous and Veterans, 87  
 WALL of the Children (The), 197

Water-Colour Exhibition (A), 268  
 "Welcome the Coming, Speed the Parting Guest," 178  
 "We Speak under Correction," 1  
 "We Three!" 210  
 What I scabally Seed at the Healthery, 95  
 What is a Deputy-Alderman? 200  
 What it may come to, 118  
 "What must be done," 217  
 What's o'clock? 277  
 What's the Remedy? 166  
 What will they do with him? 154  
 When Doctors Agree, 26  
 When the Bill comes in! 155  
 Whisker Suffolk-ated, 265  
 Why, 268  
 Wonderful Conversion, 28  
 Word and a Worry (A), 279  
 Word w! (Dawson) Burns, 277  
 Ye Ban's and Brays! 256  
 Young as Ever! 182  
 Yule-tide in the Strand, 204

## LARGE ENGRAVINGS.

A PROPOS! 225  
 Bag-Fox (The), 199  
 "Bill" the Giant-Killer, 247  
 Box and Cox, 259  
 "Can't Get Away!" 91  
 Compliments of the Season, 127  
 Dis-ecur in Egypt (The), 115  
 Dual Un-control, 271  
 "Evicted!" 283  
 "Follow my Leader!" 48  
 "Good Night!" 295  
 "How it's Done!" 85  
 John Bull's Christmas Family Party, 207  
 Midsummer Pantomime (A), 19  
 "Neck or Nothing," 187  
 "Noblesse Oblige!" 21  
 Old Lion Aroused (The), 67  
 "O the dreary, dreary Moorland!" 151  
 Political Tam o' Shanter (The), 78, 79  
 Raising the "Fiery Cross," 103  
 Ruling the Waves (A), 163  
 Terrible Threat (A), 115  
 Three Emperors (The), 189  
 Unconscious Guy Fawkes (The), 222  
 Westminster Wizard (The), 7  
 "We Three!" 211

## SMALL ENGRAVINGS.

ADVERTISEMENT PERVERSIONS, 244  
 African Venus (The), 291  
 Agricultural-looms, 221  
 "All England!" 87  
 Amateur Actor (The), 162  
 Angry Fater and Son, 88  
 Apotheosis of Dodson, 207  
 Arid August, 111  
 "Army with the 'Arriers, 269  
 Bailing for a French Directory, 66  
 Bailing out a Black Sheep, 82  
 Bar of the House (The), 19  
 Baronet unlikely to cause Jealousy, 223  
 Barriester resting his Brain (A), 79  
 Bismarck and Gladstone Dogs, 182  
 Bismarck's Loving Cup, 285  
 Bismarck, the "Old Soldier," 123  
 Bismarck wooing France, 194  
 Board-School Boy's Illness (A), 202  
 Boasting off the Orkneys, 99  
 Brown's Invitation to Jones, 74  
 Camel-Mounted Life-Guards, 147  
 Charging for Camels, 167  
 Christmas Plessantries, 201  
 Christmas Waits, 203  
 Clocly and the Bird-Cage, 278  
 Commons Summoned to Upper House, 215  
 Cook and her "Skeleton" Follower, 155  
 Oribbage, 257  
 Cricket Sketches, 4  
 Crop and Stock, 276  
 Daughters's Shyness and Self-Contradiction, 222  
 Discharged Butler speaks French, 27  
 Distinguished Strangers' Gallery, 287  
 Dolly's Early English, 179  
 Dowager laments barren Season, 224  
 Dufferin, the Maid of All Work, 154  
 Duke and Portrait-Painter, 84  
 Effects of Good Cheer on Diners, 65  
 Effect of Whiskey on Shooting, 181  
 Ready on Horse-racing (An), 266  
 Eton Foot-Ball, 277  
 Extremes at French Watering-Places, 107  
 Fierce-looking Traveller's Introduction (A), 258  
 French and Chinese Cockfight, 106  
 French for Home-Sickness (The), 242  
 French Hatter and Bishop, 125  
 French Parliamentary View (A), 268  
 Gents' Bow at Fromenade Concerts, 275  
 German's Opinion on the Peerage (A), 118  
 Giving the Cook Warning, 246  
 Gladstone's Versatility, 178  
 Gouty Squire and the Rector, 286  
 Grandpapa's Bust when a Child, 2  
 Grains-toasting Muffins, 191  
 Hairdresser and Bald Customer, 253  
 Halfpenny and Penny Dinners, 204  
 Healthier v. Theatricals, 29  
 Ham and Duckings, 47  
 Hereditary Legislator taking his Seat, 251  
 His Grace the Duke of Buckingham, 14  
 Hog in Mud-Salad Market (The), 26  
 Horticultural Cuttings, 17, 48  
 House Left Sitting (The), 71  
 House of Lords all Harcourts, 193



House of Lords "Up" (The), 89  
 How the Bishop was Weighted, 183  
 Information during a Quail, 6  
 Irishman's Sentences (An), 254  
 Irish Valet and the Boiled Boots, 226  
 Jaded June, 3  
 Japanese Design of House of Commons, 227  
 John Bull and African Settler, 280  
 Jones's Leaping Lessons, 290  
 Joyous July! 51  
 Judge and Obtuse Witness, 274  
 Kitchen Committee at Work (The), 23  
 Lady criticising Picture, 202  
 Lawn-Tennis Players, 158  
 "Les Filles de John Bull," 189  
 Little Game for the Twelfth (A), 73  
 London Sportsman in the stubbles, 171  
 Long and Short at a Ball, 114  
 Lord Mayor's Show (The), 217  
 Lord Northbrook's Little Holiday, 63  
 Lord R. Churchill dines with Salisbury, 62  
 Mahomet comes to the Mountain, 102  
 Mammoth and the Glacier (The), 129  
 Member on Welsh Mountains (A), 144  
 Master H. Gladstone's Playmates, 154  
 Mastiff and the Foodie (The), 142  
 Meet at St. Stephen's (The), 203  
 Minister's Lecture on Drinking (A), 53  
 Modern Men of Gotham (The), 231  
 Mounting a Moving Rector, 255  
 Mr. Punch's Surprise Crackers for Christmas, 310  
 Mrs. Brown and her Children, 254  
 Mrs. de Tomkyns and the Claimant, 218  
 Mute's Opinion of his Pro-cession (A), 195  
 Neat and Tidy—Tight and Needy, 250  
 Next Literary Advertisement (The), 205  
 Niggers Singing on the Beach, 150  
 No Reasonable Offer Refused, 22  
 November Notes, 267  
 "Objects of Interest" at Healtheries, 98  
 October Observations, 219  
 Old Gent pursued by Bull, 15  
 Our Artist and Inquisitive Duchess, 210  
 Our Artist at a Sea-side Exhibition, 184  
 Our Artist's Funny Sketch, 30  
 Our Contributor and the Office Boy, 94  
 Our Royal Academy Guy'd, 13  
 Over-dosing Juvenile Scholars, 145  
 Overfed Phenomena, 269  
 Parliamentary Back View (A), 75  
 Parliamentary Sea View (A), 95  
 Planets Known to the Ancients, 262  
 Police Vaccination, 24  
 Political Nile Passage (The), 239  
 Politicians Ballooning, 170  
 Popgun and Penny Trumpet, 118  
 Prendergast's Flippancy to a Bishop, 265  
 Prisoner with an Alias (A), 296  
 Proper Girls to be Civil to, 204  
 Punch reconciles Chamberlain and Tyndall, 278  
 Queen Coal, the Unprotected Female, 243  
 Question about Lady Guile's Dance, 27  
 Questioning the General before Dinner, 18  
 Rajahs Randolph and Gorst, 269  
 Reason for having a Tooth out, 270  
 Remedy for Bronchitis, 214  
 Repartees between Men of Letters, 206  
 Reviewing the Opera, 83  
 Rifle Trifles, 26  
 Rough Sketch of Upper House, 25  
 Salisbury's Game at Skittles, 293  
 Sanitary Inspector Punch in Mud-Salad Market, 11  
 Scotchman's Opinion of the Frenchese, 190  
 Sea-side Spots, 85, 101  
 Selling an Old Hunter, 249  
 September Shootings, 159  
 Shooting the Cocks and Hens, 28  
 "Shrieks from Dressing-Room!" 122  
 Why Jones and the Squinting Smiths, 174  
 Some New Metropolitan Members, 279  
 Speaking French to French Waiters, 74  
 Speculator Clears his Pockets, 63  
 Stalking Gorgius Midas Junior, 90  
 Talented Lovers' Conversation, 294  
 Tall Swell and Small Cobb, 69  
 Terminus Triolets, 97  
 Testing Sir Charles's Devotion, 42  
 Three Herberts (The), 225  
 Threshing Time in the Country, 119  
 Toby's Dream of "The Terraces," 46  
 Tommy's Capital Supper, 289  
 Tommy's Hair and Uncle Benjamin's, 110  
 Tourist and Scotch Boatman, 125  
 Two Ladies at "Lord's," 24  
 Tyndall v. Chamberlain, 201  
 Umpire and Lady Tennis Players, 128  
 Unfair Trade Winds, 269  
 Vaccinated from the Calf, 57  
 Washing Fathers Thames and Lea, 80  
 Wasp and Highlanders, 146  
 Watching Lawn-Tennis in East Wind, 129  
 Why the Mare wasn't Exercised, 261  
 Wilson's Shyness at Dinner, 198  
 Young Hamlet (A), 271



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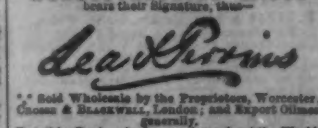
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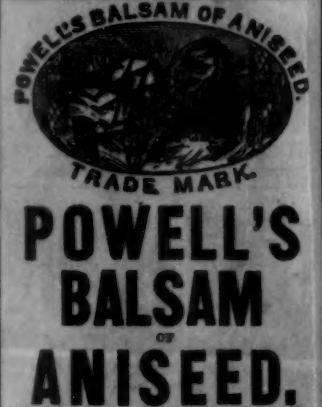
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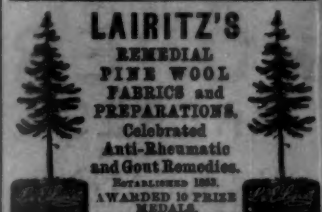


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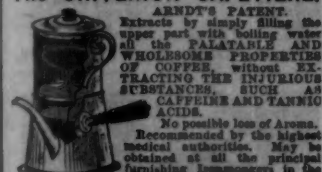
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